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CENTRAL EUROPE



InAirQ

European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

TRANSNATIONAL ADAPTION ACTIONS FOR INTEGRATED INDOOR AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT

INAIRO NEWSLETTER #5

YEAR 3 | SEPTEMBER 2019



JULY 2016 - DECEMBER 2019
www.interreg-central.eu/INAIRO



THE JOINT TRANSNATIONAL STRATEGY FOR BETTER INDOOR AIR QUALITY: INTRODUCTION

InAirQ project is into the final year, proceeding towards its conclusion. It has been prolonged for 6 more months (31st December) to finalise the training activities and reach a more effective result.

This newsletter is a report of the project advancements and the meetings that took place, as well as the remained activities.

The InAirQ pilot testing phase have now ended, the results of the monitoring campaign were elaborated and the National Action Plans have been developed and presented to schools, in order to test the measures suggested. Now, project partners have elaborated training materials and they are ready to perform capacity building trainings on their territory.

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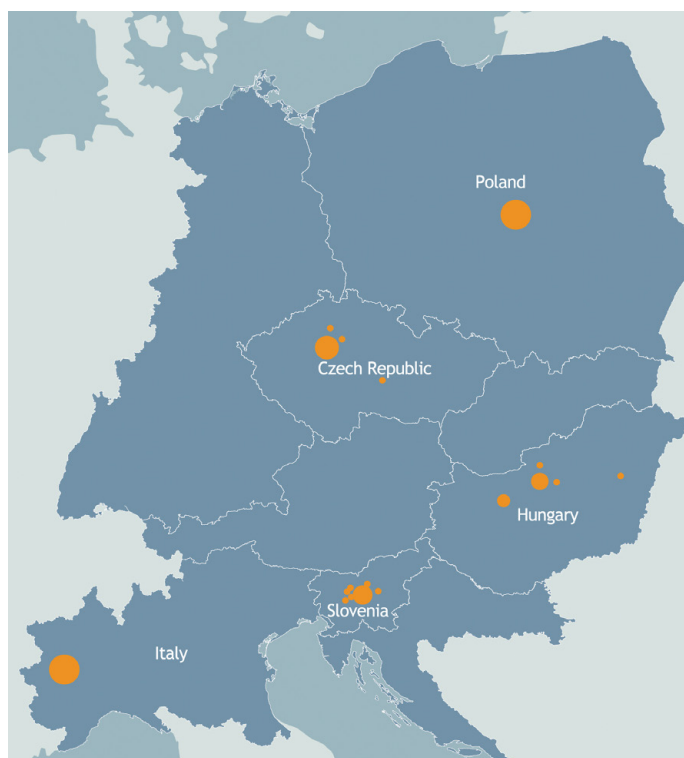
INDOOR AIR QUALITY MONITORING CAMPAIGN

The quality of the school environment, especially indoor air quality (IAQ), plays a key role in the children health development as well as in the well-being and performance of the pupils at school.

In Central Europe, children aged 6-14 spend approximately 6-9 hours per weekday in school buildings, therefore there is an increasing concern on IAQ in these microenvironments. Thus, the aim of the InAirQ project is to assess the health risk of indoor air pollutants on pupils in school buildings in Central Europe (Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Poland and Slovenia).

The air quality was investigated in 64 primary school buildings: 12 in Czech Republic, 16 in Hungary, 12 in Italy, 12 in Poland and 12 in Slovenia, during the heating period of school year 2017-2018 (October-February).

In each school, air quality was monitored in one classroom and at an outdoor location from Monday morning to Friday afternoon; the sampling took place only when the classroom was occupied in order to provide a better estimate of what children actually breathe while in classrooms.



The results of the InAirQ monitoring campaigns have been elaborated and integrated into final reports.





NATIONAL IAQ ACTION PLAN

METHODOLOGY AND RESULTS

On the knowledge basis provided by the Virtual Health Repository and the results of monitoring phase, National Action Plans have been elaborated during the last months of year 2018, striving to raise standards of human health through improvements in the indoor environment. During the first semester of 2019, they were tested into the selected schools in each state partner.

The **National Action Plan** is a tool for preventing, identifying and solving indoor air quality (IAQ) problems in school buildings. It helps integrate activities that affect the IAQ into the system's normal use, management and maintenance. The aim is to provide a high quality indoor air by improving or maintaining the situation, by solving problems and by setting rules and preventive measures.

The preparation of the Action Plan is based on the **Joint Transnational Strategy** within the InAirQ project. This strategy for IAQ action plans is a tool for providing guidance to develop a national strategy for IAQ action plans. It helps to identify the problems, to describe the ways for improvement and to integrate actions that positively affect the IAQ into the system's normal use, management and maintenance.

The joint transnational strategy for IAQ action plans is built on the description and assessment of the current situation regarding all relevant factors which are linked to IAQ. Integral parts of the strategy are the vulnerability assessment, the SWOT analysis and the environmental and health surveillance methods. Examples for all parts of the strategy are provided in the document available on the official project website.

Based on the above-mentioned methods, each project partner elaborated its version of National Action Plan to be tested into selected schools. All these documents contain the national vulnerability assessment and the nation SWOT analysis as well as the plans for a nationwide environmental and health monitoring campaign. In some cases, if representative, IAQ and health-relevant data have been reported into the report. The aim of these plans is to help to identify the problems related to the indoor school environment and described the responsibilities and roles regarding IAQ management at different levels (i.e. stakeholder, municipality, school management). The representatives of all affected sectors should be included in the development process. The number of the necessary action plans depends on the problems identified.

For more information, visit the project website, under the section "Project Deliverables". It's possible to download the 5 National Action Plan elaborated.





CAPACITY BUILDING TRAININGS

*To be persuasive we must be believable;
to be believable we must be credible;
to be credible we must be truthful.
(Edward R. Murrow)*

Communication plays a key role in achieving the strategic and operational goals envisaged by the InAirQ project. Communication helps to raise awareness and inform stakeholders and the interested public about the project as well as to build, manage and sustain mutually fruitful relationships with and between key audiences.

The general objective of the dissemination and training activity is promoting the outputs through a continuous process of communication towards identified target groups. The identification of targets of the awareness raising campaign helps to properly identify needs of the target groups and to select the most relevant approach to reach and influence their behaviour.

The project aims to arise the interest of a very broad audience from the operators of schools buildings to the users of the assets (pupils, their parents, teachers and school personnel).

Under Communication framework, during this last year (2019), project partners are performing two of the key activities of InAirQ: **awareness raising campaign and capacity building trainings**.

In order to involve a greater number of targets in those activities aimed at training, informing, raising awareness on the topic and inducing a change in behaviour, InAirQ partners are organizing different training sessions or meeting with different target groups.

- **Specific meetings with school pupils and their families.** Raising awareness among the children of the schools involved in the project and their families on the subject of air quality is an action that can have a

multiplier effect on the dissemination of information and awareness on the subject. Children who will be provided with basic information on air quality and how to improve it will most likely spread the message to the people they are close to: families, other friends, etc. In the same way, even the families, informed and sensitized on the subject, will be stimulated to talk about it and to apply at home the indications provided.

- **Specific meetings with school staff.** Particular attention is devoted to specific meetings with school staff, which should be sensitized on the issue so that the knowledge acquired is a spur to change behaviors orienting them towards a management more virtuous of school spaces. Meetings are conducted using supports such as slideshows projection and the distribution of technical materials regarding intervention methods aimed at improving indoor air quality, use of indoor materials and equipment and maintenance and managers' responsibility regarding a more targeted and conscious choice of furnishings, or detergents, or educational materials with low toxicity and low impact on indoor air.

- **Specific meeting with local experts or stakeholders.** Moreover, training sessions with experts from environmental agencies or local institution can be very useful in order to prepare them to continue the training with schools and families in the future, beyond InAirQ project lifetime.

- **Organization of public event.** In order to aggregate interest and involvement around the topics covered by the project, each partner are organizing one or two plenary events presenting the results, to which the students and families of the classes involved will be invited, the school staff of the schools involved and the institutional actors locals.



EVENTS

FIFTH WORK GROUP MEETING

26-27|09|18

PRAGUE
CZECH REPUBLIC

The 5th Work Group Meeting was organized by the National Institute of Public Health (NIPH) in Prague, Czech Republic, on the 26th and 27th September 2018.

Project partners invited community representatives and panelists from health and educational sector and other policy bodies for a roundtable talk, in order to discuss the project themes.



SIXTH WORK GROUP MEETING - INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

23-24|05|19

BUDAPEST
HUNGARY

The 6th and last Work Group Meeting took place in Budapest (Hungary) hosted by the National Institute of Public Health, on the 23rd and 24th May 2019. In the meantime, InAirQ partners organised the Final International Conference, with the involvement of relevant stakeholders from all partner regions.





THE INAIRQ PARTNERS

WHO WE ARE

Partners from five Central European Programme countries join their forces to improve indoor air quality in primary and secondary schools.

5
COUNTRIES

2 HU **2** IT

2 PL

1 CZ

2 SI

9
PROJECT PARTNERS

7 PUBLIC
2 PRIVATE

6
PUBLIC AUTHORITIES

1
SCHOOL

1
HIGHER EDUCATION & RESEARCH CENTRE

1
NETWORK GDO



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Municipality of Várpalota



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